

S.N.: 10/759,331
Art Unit: 3628

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached 8 sheets of drawings replaces the original sheets of informal drawings.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets 8
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes 0

REMARKS

Formal drawings are filed herewith to replace the originally filed informal drawings.

Claims 7-20 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for the reasons of record. The amendment addresses the purported points of unclarity and renders them moot. In addition, other merely clarifying amendments were made to certain of the claims.

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) based on various combinations of Eizenburg et al., Tso, Stanfield and "Official Notice".

In order to facilitate the prosecution of this patent application to issuance, and without expressly or impliedly admitting that the Applicants are in agreement with the Examiner's rationale for rejecting the claims, each of the independent claims 1, 7 and 16 have been amended to include a recitation of subject matter based on subject matter originally found in claims 2, 8 and 18, respectively, now cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

In rejecting these dependent claims the Examiner referred to paragraph [0022] of Stanfield. What is actually stated in paragraph [0022] is the following:

The electronic reservation referral-system and method of the present invention is well suited for conventions, trade shows and professional meetings. The electronic reservation referral system and method can send interactive emails to potential attendees well in advance of an event, allowing them to make the appropriate reservations for the event, hotel accommodations, flights, etc. In addition to helping organizers promote their event, the electronic reservation referral system and method can help organizers forecast attendance; reserve the appropriate meeting space, market conference materials, etc. Professional organizations can use the electronic reservation referral-system of the present invention to **conduct important pre-conference business, such as votes or polls**, as well as to attract new members from lists of names and emails supplied by existing members. The present system will also reduce costs for event support staff and logistics.

Clearly, any ability conduct "votes or polls" is not related to travel per se, but is related to the convention, trade show and professional meeting that is the purpose of the trip. This can be contrasted with the disclosure of this patent application at, for example, page 9, lines 13-20:

(C) There may also be provided, in the preferred embodiment, a tool enabling participants to vote on any of a number of matters, **such as trip destination, trip dates and hotel**. Each member may vote once, and the results are displayed. The voting tool can also be used **for making group decisions on other matters, such as whether to allow a proposed participant to join the group**. The trip leader may determine the duration of a particular ballot, the subject of the ballot, whether a simple majority is sufficient to win the vote, and other matters. The voting may be secret, or the voters names may be published, optionally along with their vote.

In order to even further distinguish the claimed subject matter from the references cited by the Examiner each of the claims 1, 13 and 16 has been further clarified by amendment in a similar fashion as, for example in claim 1, to recite:

where one of said tools enables trip participants to **vote on at least one matter related to the travel arrangements**.

The independent claims of this patent application are clearly in condition for allowance over the various combinations of references cited and applied by the Examiner. In that all of the independent claims are allowable, then all of the dependent claims are allowable as well, for at least this one reason alone. Further, it is made of record that the Applicants do not agree with the Examiner's characterization of trip participants being able determine which trip participants will share lodging accommodations during the trip, in the context claimed, as being prima facie obvious.

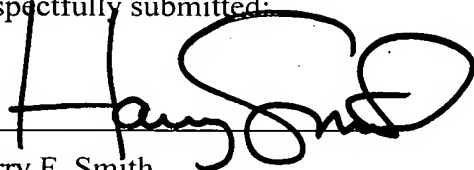
As a part of the amendment claims 21-29 are newly added to depend from allowable claim 16, and should also be found to be allowable for at least this reason alone. In addition, independent claim 30 and dependent claims 31-33 have been newly added. Support for the newly added claims can be found in the specification at least at pages 3, 4, 9 and 10, and in the drawing figures

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referenced therein. No new matter is added.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and remove the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), and to allow all of the pending claims as now presented for examination. An early notification of the allowability of all of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted:



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8/1/2007

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

8/1/2007

Date

Elaine F. Moran

Name of Person Making Deposit